

Empire Day



MAY 23. 1947

THE SCHOOLS OF ONTARIO

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CANADIAN WINNERS of the VICTORIA CROSS

Lieutenant-Colonel C. CECIL I. MERRITT, Vancouver (South Saskatchewan Regiment).

In the attack on Dieppe he displayed magnificent leadership and, though wounded, he remained to organize the withdrawal and was taken prisoner. August 19, 1942.

Major PAUL TRIQUET, Cabano, Quebec (Royal 22nd Regiment).

His courage, leadership and skill were responsible for the capture of Casa Berardi in the Moro River battle in Italy. December 14, 1943.

Major CHARLES F. HOEY, Duncan, B.C.

While serving with the British Army in Burma he led an attack on a vital peak and captured it, but was killed just as he reached the enemy post. February 17, 1944.

Captain F. T. PETERS, D.S.O., D.S.C., Royal Navy, native of Prince Edward Island.

During the North African landings in November, 1942, he took his vessel through the boom and harbour defences of Oran under heavy fire.

Major JOHN K. MAHONY, New Westminster, B.C. (Westminster Regiment).

He was responsible for leading his company in the crossing of the Nelfa River in Italy and for holding the position against strong counter-attacks. May 24, 1944.

Flight-Lieutenant DAVID E. HORNELL, Mimico, Ontario, R.C.A.F.

He carried through a successful attack on a German submarine in the North Atlantic, although his flying boat had been badly damaged. He died of exposure after his plane had come down in the water. June 24, 1944.

Major DAVID V. CURRIE, Moose Jaw, Sask. (South Alberta Regiment).

With a small mixed force he organized the defence of a village and held it successfully to cut off one of the main German escape routes from Falaise, Normandy. August 18, 1944.

Private ERNEST A. SMITH, New Westminster, B.C. (Seaforth Highlanders).

Almost single-handed he held a bridgehead over the Savio River, Italy, against attacks by tanks, heavy guns and infantry. October 21-22, 1944.

(continued inside back cover)

EMPIRE DAY

IN THE
SCHOOLS OF ONTARIO

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MAY 23, 1947

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ONTARIO

Department of Education

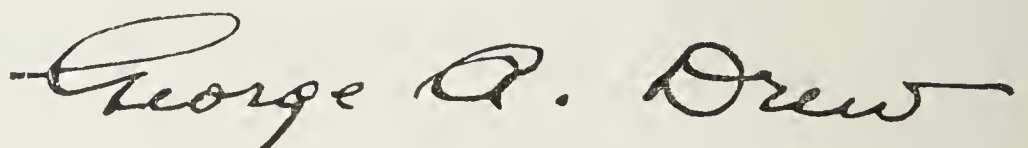
A Message from the
MINISTER OF EDUCATION
to the
SCHOOLS OF ONTARIO

For nearly fifty years Empire Day has been observed in our schools in this province as a day set apart for special thought about the British Empire and for thanksgiving that we are members of that great and widespread family. Again this year our teachers and pupils are asked to mark the significance of Empire Day by appropriate school activities and special programmes.

What great changes the past fifty years have seen in the structure of the Empire! What great events have passed over the British Commonwealth in that time! Two world-wide wars have threatened its very foundations, but have left it more firmly united, in a unity based on mutual aims, mutual aid and mutual sacrifice. Wise statesmanship has seen the need and seized the time to extend the rights of self-government to the Dominions and to encourage the growth and development of the smaller members of the family toward the same goal.

The resemblance of the Empire to a family growing up and achieving maturity is a striking one. The members of a family in infancy need protection and care; as they grow stronger they require wise encouragement and direction; and as they reach maturity they need freedom to make their own decisions and to find their own place in the world. If they have been wisely brought up there will be strong bonds of affection between parents and children, and between brothers and sisters although living in separate households. They will be ready to help one another in time of need and to protect their mutual rights and interests without any suggestion of compulsion.

The British Commonwealth and Empire is such a family. As we recall how it has grown to maturity, let us all be proud of its glorious history. And let us all resolve to make our own land a worthy member of the great British partnership of nations.



Minister of Education.

A Programme for
EMPIRE DAY
in the
SCHOOLS OF ONTARIO

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MAY 23, 1947

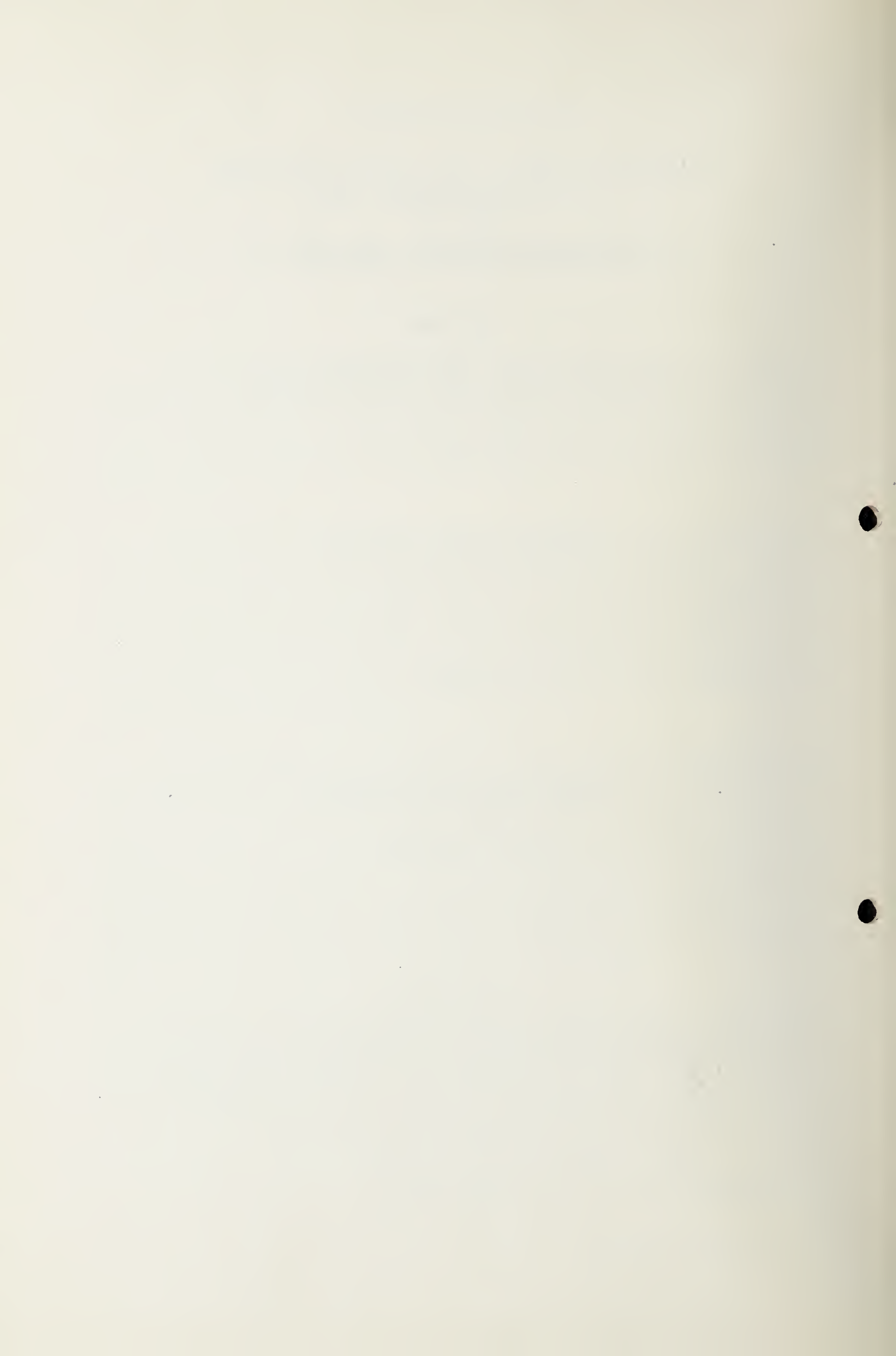


**The British Family
of Nations**

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THEME

The British Commonwealth is a living growing family, not a dead thing. Its members are constantly developing towards self-government. Yet they are bound together by ties sturdy in strength though frail in appearance.



The British Family of Nations

PART I

THE EMPIRE FAMILY IS BORN

Chorus—"Land of Hope and Glory"

Dear land of hope, thy hope is crowned,
God make thee mightier yet!
On Sov'ran brows, beloved, renowned,
Once more thy crown is set.
Thine equal laws by freedom gained,
Have ruled thee well and long;
By freedom gained, by truth maintained,
Thine Empire shall be strong.

Land of Hope and Glory, Mother of the free,
How shall we extol thee, who are born of thee?
Wider still and wider shall thy bounds be set;
God, who made thee mighty, make thee mightier yet.

Thy fame is ancient as the days,
As Ocean large and wide;
A pride that dares, and heeds not praise,
A stern and silent pride;
Not that false joy that dreams content
With what our sires have won;
The blood a hero sire hath spent
Still nerves a hero son.

—Arthur C. Benson

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First Announcer—How did the British Empire, with its lands of Hope and Glory, come to be born?

Second Announcer—What of Newfoundland, land of dark spruces and rich fisheries?

Voice for Newfoundland—I am Newfoundland. Four and a half centuries have passed since John Cabot first sighted my stormy shores. Humphrey Gilbert dared the unknown Atlantic to claim me for England. Since that time I have been proud to call myself the oldest son of Empire.

First Announcer—And the land of the Maple Leaf?

Voice for Canada—For three hundred years English and French have come to my shores. Brave English traders fought the ice of the north. Brave French explorers pushed forward up the St. Lawrence. Each helped to carve out Canada from the wilderness.

Chorus—"Our Canada from Sea to Sea," verses 1 and 4.

Our Canada, from sea to sea,
Four signs of valour knows;
The thistle and the fleur-de-lys,
The shamrock and the rose,—
For hardihood the thistle stands;
The shamrock is for grief;
The lily and the rose join hands
To make the Maple Leaf.

Lord God, Who made this goodly land,
Keep us, Thy children, meek,—
But let us still united stand,
From sea to mountain peak.
Lord God, Who kept our fathers strong,
Give us their strength of soul,
To know Thy voice thro' clam'rous wrong,
And keep our Empire whole.

First Announcer—The seas of the world come to Britain's shore. And for centuries the seas of the world have carried forth the men of Britain; sailors willing to brave unknown waters, and explorers seeking strange new lands.

Second Announcer—Captain Cook bore the flag of Britain across the vast Pacific, and unfurled it on the islands of New Zealand and the continent we now call Australia, twelve thousand miles from home. He fought no battles, enslaved no people, but carried British ways of life to a distant part of the world.

Voice for Maoris—We Maoris dwell in the land of the long white cloud that floats in the southern seas. New Zealand is our home. When Captain Cook first came to our shores, we greeted his boats with great boulders rolled down from our high cliffs. But afterwards we learned to live and work beside British men and women, with whom we had two things in common—love of country and love of freedom.

Voice for Australia—I am Australia, the land of the Southern Cross. I, too, trace my birth as part of the Empire to the great voyager, Captain Cook.

Voice for Asia—I speak for Asia. British traders went forth to barter in my glittering lands, for silks and spices and jewels. Sometimes British soldiers had to follow to bring peace to my troubled kingdoms. Thus India and Burma came under the British flag. Sometimes Britain brought order to old and proud lands that had fallen into decay. Sometimes British traders built great cities where only jungle had stood before. One of these men was Stamford Raffles, founder of Singapore. He took a swampy native village and made it a mighty port. More than that, he raised the slaves whom he found there into freedom.

Voice for Africa—In Africa, settlements of British and Dutch grew and prospered in the south. British explorers and missionaries brought light to the dark interior. Into the unknown regions of my land went David Livingstone, discovering my hidden mysteries, fighting the evil of slavery, and bringing the teachings of our Lord.

Voice for the Oceans—Over the waters of the earth Britain brought freedom and justice. Tiny islands, sprinkled over my great oceans, came to fly the British flag—lands like St. Helena and the Falklands, Malta and Aden. Little dots on the map are these, but the Union Jack that flies over them spells freedom of the seas for every ship that sails in peace.

Second Announcer—So our Empire was born. Sometimes the British family grew by battle, but more often by discovery and trade. Each part, at its birth, received a priceless gift—the gift of British freedom and British justice.

Chorus—"Rule Britannia."

PART II

THE FAMILY GROWS UP

First Announcer—In this way our Empire was born. Then, as all families do, the British family began to grow up. The Motherland took care of her sons and daughters when they were small and guarded them when they were weak.

Second Announcer—But in all families as children grow older they want to settle things for themselves. It was this way with the lands of the Empire. Here free men from all parts of the Old World had come. In their new home, Britons—old and new—must be free, free to make their own decisions and free to rule their own country in their own way.

First Announcer—Britons breathe freedom with their native air. The whole story of the British people is the story of their steady march towards greater and greater freedom. The poets of England have always sung of freedom. Listen:

A Pupil—We must be free or die, who speak the tongue
That Shakespeare spake . . .

Second Announcer—So, as the British colonies grew older, they chose, as sons of all families will, to be masters in their own houses. First to grow up were the American colonies. That was many years ago, and Mother England was not yet a mother old and wise enough to know that children must grow into manhood, must live their own lives. She tried to keep these Englishmen in America under her wing. They would not stay. They fought. They won their liberty. They became the great United States of America.

First Announcer—But remember, they broke away because like all Britons they "must be free or die;" their very victory was a victory for British freedom.

Second Announcer—And, as Britain became older, and wiser in the ways of sons growing into manhood, she encouraged members of her family to set out for themselves. Just as soon as they became strong enough and wise enough, Britain gladly gave each son the ordering of his own household.

Voice for Canada—In Canada four little colonies had started out for themselves. These were Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. In these colonies French and English lived side by side under the British Flag. But each colony went its own way, and had little connection with the others. In 1867 they saw that it would be better if they were to join to make one country—our Canada. Later other colonies came in, till there developed a land of nine provinces stretching from ocean to ocean. In this widespread Canada arose something new in the story of the Empire. This was the first Dominion, a colony which had come of age; a country ruling itself in every way, but still joined to the Motherland by ties of love.

Chorus—O Canada!

Voice for Australia—In 1901 another son came of age. In far Australia, the land of the golden fleece, British freedom raised for itself another home. Under the Southern Cross arose the Parliament of a united Australia, the second Dominion.

Recitation—Not 'mid the thunder of the battle guns
Not on the red field of an Empire's wrath
Rose to a nation Australasia's sons,
Who trod to greatness Industry's pure path.
Behold a people through whose annals runs
No damning strain of falsehood, force, or wrong—
A record clear as light, and sweet as song,
Without one page the patriot's finger shuns.

Voice for New Zealand—I speak for New Zealand—that second isle of England, set in the far Pacific. Forty years ago, Britain's Parliament at London gave my land another British Parliament at Wellington. The British family of nations now had three Dominions.

Recitation—God of nations! at Thy feet
In the bonds of love we meet,
Hear our voices, we entreat,
God defend our free land!
Guard Pacific's triple star
From the shafts of strife and war,
Make her praises heard afar,
God defend New Zealand!

First Announcer—But what of South Africa—the land of the tawny veldt, the land of two races, the land of Briton and Boer?

Voice for South Africa—In 1909 there arose the fourth Dominion. The Boers of the Orange River and the Transvaal united with the British of Cape Colony and Natal. The Mother of Parliaments made still another Parliament of free men in the Union of South Africa. Only this year, His Majesty King George VI came to South Africa to open his Parliament himself.

Second Announcer—So the children of the Empire grew into the Dominion of the Commonwealth. Britain, the wise mother, gave each of her sons his freedom as he showed himself ready for it.

First Announcer—But if each Dominion rules itself, what holds our Empire together?

Second Announcer—What are the ties that join our British family? Our speech, our common freedom, our love for the land whence our fathers came, and, above all, our King. Sixteen years ago the Mother Parliament at Westminster said that our King was King of Australia, King of New Zealand, King of South Africa, King of Canada, as well as King of Great Britain. He joins us all together.

First Announcer—And so we learn that our Empire is not a dead thing, finished and unchanging. It is one great family, a family living and growing. As each member reaches manhood and learns to live with himself, he is free to make his own destiny. Some parts of the Empire have done this; other parts are doing it to-day. But always two bonds tie the grown sons to the land that gave them birth—the love of the motherland, and loyalty to the King.

Chorus—"Song of Our Dominions."

Oh! Sing a song of our Dominions,
Free as the ships that sail the sea.
We have planes of mighty pinions,
Sailing every skyway free.
With the British anchor to hold us,
We can ride the mightiest storm,
And as years go by and mould us,
A happy world then we shall form.

PART III

THE FAMILY STANDS TOGETHER

First Announcer—In this fashion the full-grown sons of the British family of nations came to rule in their own homes, to take their own way. To those outside, it must have seemed that the family was falling apart, that no longer was there anything to hold it together. The Nazi voice of Von Ribbentrop said:

Voice (*scornfully*)—The British Empire is held together by moonbeams.

Second Announcer—Moonbeams? Or was Winston Churchill right?

Voice for Churchill—"How are all these communities and races joined together? Why is it that they wend their way along the stormy road uphill in company? There is only one answer to that: it is because they want to. In fact they want to very much. If it were not so, there is no way to compel them. But they want to. They want to, not only in the piping times of peace, but even more closely they draw together in the most horrible shocks and agonies of war."

First Announcer—World War II was the proof of who was right—Churchill or Von Ribbentrop. In the sombre days of 1940, did the family leave the mother alone in her trouble? Let Churchill answer again:

Voice—"... Against the triumphant might of Hitler . . . we stood alone. Then, surely, was the moment for Empire to break up, for each of its widely dispersed communities to seek safety on the winning side. . . . But what happened? It was proved that the bonds which unite us, though supple and elastic, are stronger than tensest steel. It was proved that they were bonds of spirit, and not of flesh, and thus could rise superior alike to the most tempting allurements of surrender, and the harshest threats of doom.

"In that dark, terrific, and also most glorious hour, we received from all parts of His Majesty's dominions, from the greatest to the smallest, from the strongest to the weakest, and from the most modern to the most simple, assurance that we would all go down or come through together."

Chorus—"Rule Britannia!"

Second Announcer—Britannia's sons knew that Britain's cause was their cause; that if Britain were to go down, they would surely follow; that if British justice and British freedom were to die, there could no longer be justice and freedom anywhere on earth.

First Announcer—From the whole wide world British blood and British treasure poured forth to save peace and liberty. On the ocean, in the sky, and on the battlefield, sons of the Empire won with their blood a little crimson ribbon—the ribbon which none but heroes may wear.

Voice for Canada—There are sixteen Canadians whose deeds their country will remember forever. These sixteen won the Victoria Cross; some on the red battlefields of Europe; some in the flaming skies above. Some of them lived to return; some returned, but with bodies broken by wounds; and some of them will never return. We shall never forget them.

Second Announcer—Other parts of the Empire have also their little bands of supreme heroes. Let one for each country stand for all the others who were equally brave.

Voice for India—Parkash Singh, a native of India, awarded the Victoria Cross for gallantry in Burma. Parkash Singh, in the face of heavy Japanese fire, drove forward on the open beach to rescue the crews of British carriers, and towed one of the disabled carriers, carrying wounded men, back to safety.

Voice for South Africa—Squadron Leader J. R. Nettleton of South Africa, awarded the Victoria Cross for gallantry over Germany. Squadron Leader Nettleton led twelve heavy bombers in a daylight raid on an engine works near Munich, and pressed through the attack in spite of fierce anti-aircraft fire.

Voice for New Zealand—Flying Officer Lloyd Allan Trigg, of the Royal New Zealand Air Force, awarded the Victoria Cross for gallantry over the sea. Flying Officer Trigg attacked a German U-boat, continued the attack although his bomber was badly damaged by the fire of the U-boat, and succeeded in sinking it at the cost of his own life.

Voice for Australia—Corporal J. H. Edmondson, of the Australian Military Forces, awarded the Victoria Cross for gallantry at Tobruk. When a heavily armed party of Germans broke through the wire defences at Tobruk, Corporal Edmondson, although fatally wounded, continued to attack the enemy, killing three of them with his bayonet, and saving the life of his officer.

Voice for Ireland—Commander E. S. Fogarty Fegen, of the Royal Navy, a native of County Tipperary in Eire, awarded the Victoria Cross for gallantry on the Atlantic Ocean. Commander Fegen was escorting a convoy of merchantmen in his lightly-armed merchant cruiser, H.M.S. *Jervis Bay*, when he sighted a German pocket battleship. Although the *Jervis Bay* was hopelessly outclassed, Commander Fegen at once attacked the battleship, giving the merchantmen a chance to get away. He went down with his flaming ship.

Chorus—O Valiant Hearts, verses 1 and 2.

First Announcer (*slowly*)—Love of our King, love of British freedom—and the blood of heroes—these are the ties that bind our Empire together.

PART IV

THE FAMILY ENDURES

Choral Recitation—

Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.

Serve the Lord with gladness; come before his presence with singing.

Know ye that the Lord is God; it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves: we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

Second Announcer—The War is over; The Empire has stood together; God has given us the victory. The older lands of the Commonwealth continue to rule in their own homes. During the years of the war many of the younger lands have grown to full stature. The time has come when they will wish to master their own fate. They too will receive from the Motherland the power to rule themselves, just as rapidly as they show themselves ready for it.

First Announcer—And now voices again will rise outside our British family, voices which will say that our Commonwealth is drifting apart, that only moonbeams hold it together. But other and wiser voices will reply that what our British family is to-day is our only hope for the rest of the world in years to come. At that time, let us pray, other countries too will join together to make a world-wide family.

Second Announcer—The voice of Princess Elizabeth, speaking from South Africa on the occasion of her twenty-first birthday, April 21, 1947:

Voice for Princess Elizabeth—" . . . I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong. But I shall not have strength to carry out this resolution unless you join in it with me, as I now invite you to do. I know that your support will be unfailingly given. God help me to make good my vow; and God bless all of you who are willing to share in it."

First Announcer—The voice of His Majesty the King, speaking to his world-wide family of nations:

"I think of you, my peoples, as one great family, for that is how we are learning to live. We all belong to each other. We all need each other. It is in serving each other and in sacrificing for our common good that we are finding our true life."

GOD SAVE THE KING

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE USE OF THIS PROGRAMME

This programme has been arranged so that as many pupils as possible may take part. It may be altered if the teacher so desires.

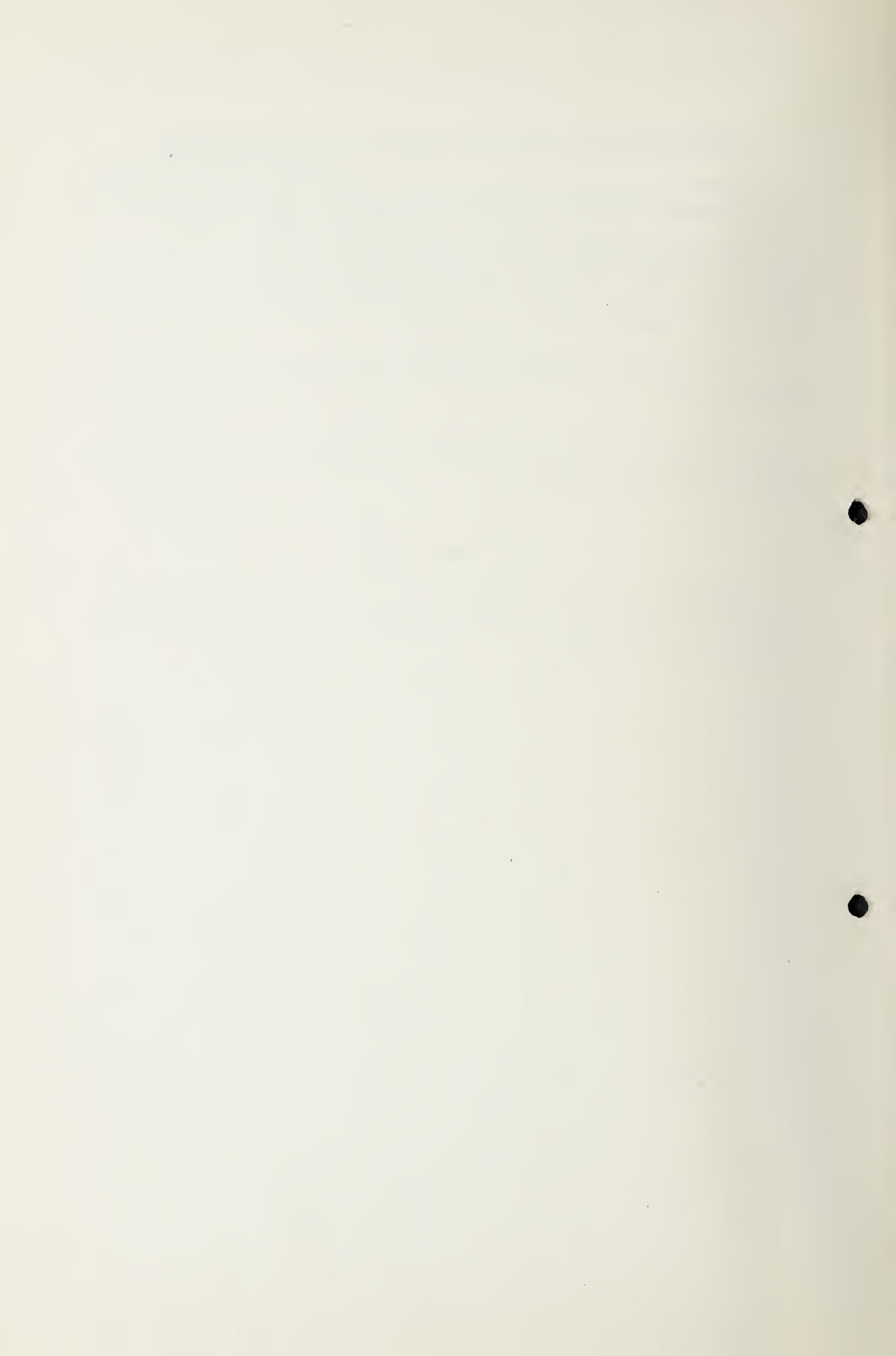
The teacher may act as one of the announcers, or all the parts may be taken by pupils. All those taking part should practise carefully, under the supervision of the teacher, so that they may speak their parts intelligibly and with expression.

It is assumed that the general public will be invited to attend the Empire Day Exercises.

With one exception, the music for the songs suggested for this programme will be found in Songs of the Commonwealth (Gordon V. Thompson Ltd., 193 Yonge Street, Toronto).

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Quotations from the speeches of the Right Honourable Winston S. Churchill are used by permission of McClelland and Stewart, Toronto, owners of the Canadian copyright.



Canadian Winners of the Victoria Cross—*continued*

Major F. A. TILSTON, Windsor and Toronto (Essex Scottish Regiment).

In action in the Hochwald Forest defence line, and wounded so severely that surgeons were later forced to amputate both legs, he led the fighting and refused to be evacuated until his objective had been taken. May 22, 1945.

Sergeant AUBREY COSENS, Latchford, Ontario (Queen's Own Rifles).

In an attack in Holland he entered and captured three fortified farm buildings single-handed under heavy fire. Later in the action he was killed. February 25, 1945.

Corporal FREDERICK G. TOPHAM, Toronto, 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion.

As medical orderly he showed outstanding bravery near Wesel, Germany, in treating casualties under fire while himself wounded. March 25, 1945.

Squadron Leader I. W. BAZALGETTE, Calgary, Alberta.

A Canadian in the Royal Air Force, he gave his life in trying to save two comrades in a crippled blazing bomber. August, 1944.

Lieutenant ROBERT H. GRAY, D.S.O., R.C.N.V.R., Nelson, B.C.

While serving on the British aircraft carrier H.M.S. *Formidable* as a fighter pilot, he bombed and sank a Japanese destroyer. His plane was shot down in the attack. August 9, 1945.

Honorary Major JOHN W. FOOTE, Canadian Chaplain Services, Hamilton and Port Hope.

During the Dieppe raid he cared for the wounded under fire and remained after the withdrawal to give further assistance. August 19, 1942.

C.S.M. JOHN R. OSBORN, St. Vital, Manitoba (Winnipeg Grenadiers).

In the defence of Hong Kong he threw back a number of Japanese hand grenades and then was killed covering another grenade with his body to save his comrades. December 19, 1941.

Pilot Officer ANDREW C. MYNARSKI, R.C.A.F., Air Gunner of Winnipeg.

He gave up his own chance to escape and died attempting to save a fellow crew-member when their Lancaster was shot down in flames over Cambrai in June, 1944.



God Save The King

God save our gracious King,
Long live our noble King,
God save the King;
Send him victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us;
God save the King.

Thy choicest gifts in store,
On him be pleased to pour,
Long may he reign!
May he defend our laws,
And ever give us cause,
To sing with heart and voice,
God save the King!

